To what extent were the 1970s and 1980s the most significant period in the quest for Native American rights between 1865 and 1992?

**Overview:**

70s/80s most important because of a combination of federal leadership on the issue, federal action, legal decisions, Native leadership, Native groups and public awareness all moving in the same direction for the first time.

Previous periods blighted by negative Federal action: de-tribalisation and assimilation. When civil rights are granted (such as the Citizenship Act 1924) they are either unasked for or verge on the side of human rights abuses.

**Potential periods (you could group differently):**

1860s-1880s: establishment of reservation policy

1887-1970s: assimilate/Americanise/terminate

1900-1945: some agents of change are present but they are not enough to overcome Americanisation as a concept. World Wars/citizenship/Collier/New Deal – which are most significant and why?

1945-60s: gradual awakening? NCAI/ICC/Red Power/Forgotten People. But an interesting period as more Natives urbanise and Americanise before the backlash of Red Power.

70s/80s: what type of breakthroughs?

**Key issues:**

Federal Action: does this drive everything?

Civil V Human Rights: By the 70s and 80s is there simply an acceptance of civil rights and the real breakthrough is the recognition of human ones?

**Potential plan:**

1. 80s/70s yes are key. But we are talking about recognition of human rights and tribal practice not a return to pre-reservation rights.
2. Outline the key issue of what we mean by rights.
3. Key theme: Federal action, explain links to others e.g. emergence of Tribal leadership. Make obvious arc between reservation and end to termination
4. Apply theme to 3 or 4 other periods (out of chronological order preferably) in order to prove the hypothesis.
5. Link to contemporary situation
6. Return to 70s/80s
7. Conclude